

MARVEL

32

LGY#758

GRØNBEKK
GEDEON
WILSON

KRAKVA

THOR



THOR

"BLOOD OF THE FATHERS" PART TWO

MILLENNIA AGO, THOR'S GRANDFATHER, BOR, SEALED A VAULT DEEP IN AN UNCHARTED WASTELAND OF NIFFLEHEIM THAT COULD BE OPENED ONLY WITH HIS BLOOD--WHICH THOR LEARNED ABOUT WHEN LAUSSA ODINSDOTTIR, HIS BABY SISTER, WAS KIDNAPPED TO PROVIDE THE KEY. AFTER THOR RESCUED LAUSSA, THOUGH, THE KING OF ASGARD NEEDED TO KNOW WHAT SECRETS HIS GRANDFATHER HAD LOCKED AWAY. LITTLE DID HE KNOW ANOTHER WAS WATCHING: DOCTOR DOOM.

WITHIN THE VAULT WAS A TIME STORM--A SWIRLING MASS OF PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE. AND FROM THAT FUTURE CAME A TEENAGE LAUSSA, WARNING HER BROTHER NOT TO LOOK INTO THE TIME STORM AND TO INSTEAD GO CHECK ON HIS DEAD.

THOR TOOK THIS TO MEAN IT WAS TIME TO FURTHER INVESTIGATE THE RECENT DISAPPEARANCE OF ALL THE SOULS IN VALHALLA. HE AND VALKYRIE TRAVELED TO HEL, BUT FOUND THE REALM LIKEWISE EMPTIED OF SOULS AND ITS QUEENS HELA AND KARNILLA MISSING. WORSE STILL, AFTER BATTLING NIDHOGG, THE EATER OF SOULS, ODIN'S SPIRIT DISAPPEARED FROM MJOLNIR.

MEANWHILE, IN LATVERIA, DOCTOR DOOM HOLDS HELA PRISONER...

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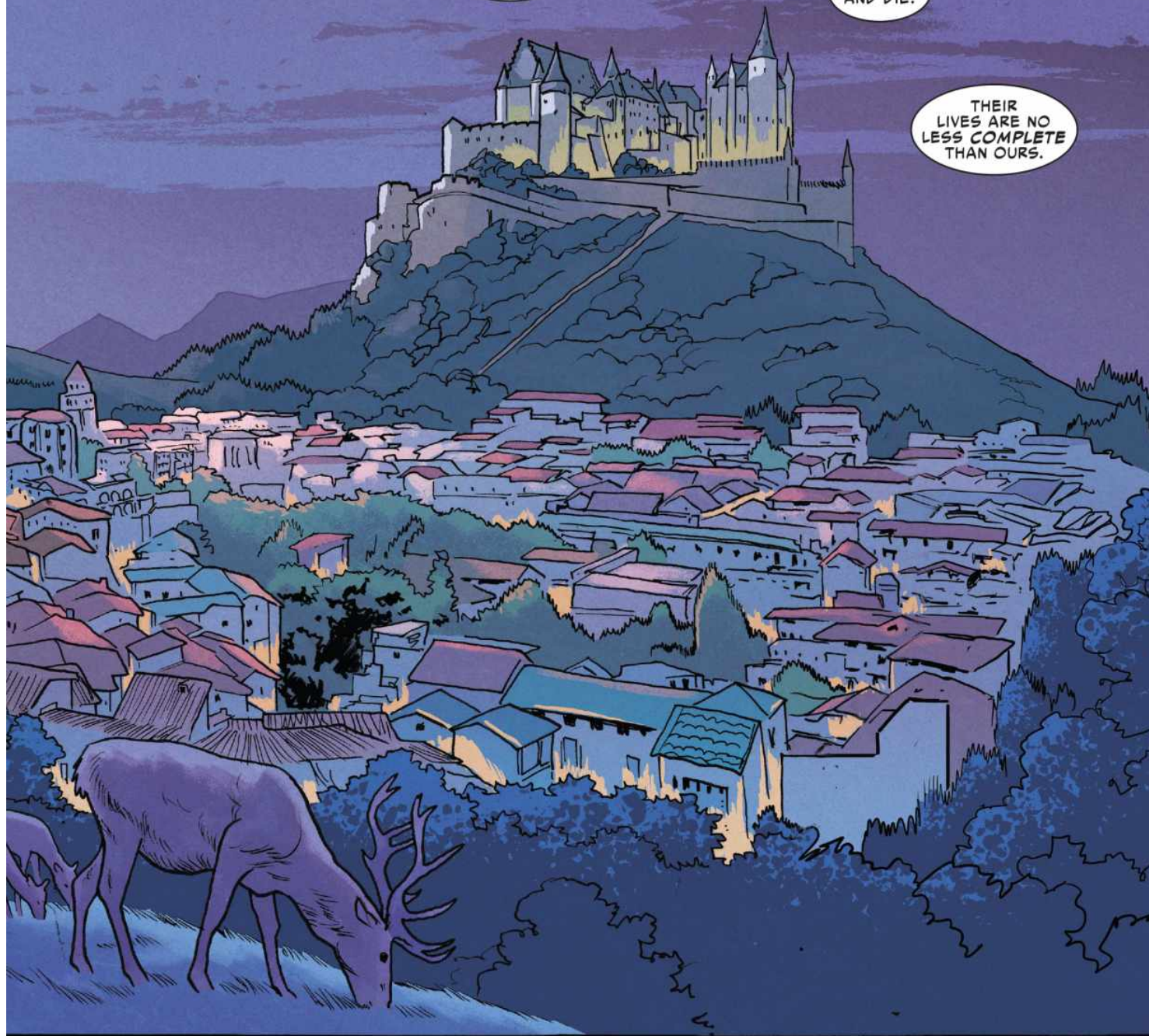
YOU
DO NOT SEE
ANIMALS SEARCH
FOR THE MEANING
OF LIFE.

YOU DO
NOT SEE THEM
FALTER UNDER
THE WEIGHT
OF THEIR OWN
EXISTENCE.

THEY
BREED AND
FEED.

LIVE
AND DIE.

THEIR
LIVES ARE NO
LESS COMPLETE
THAN OURS.

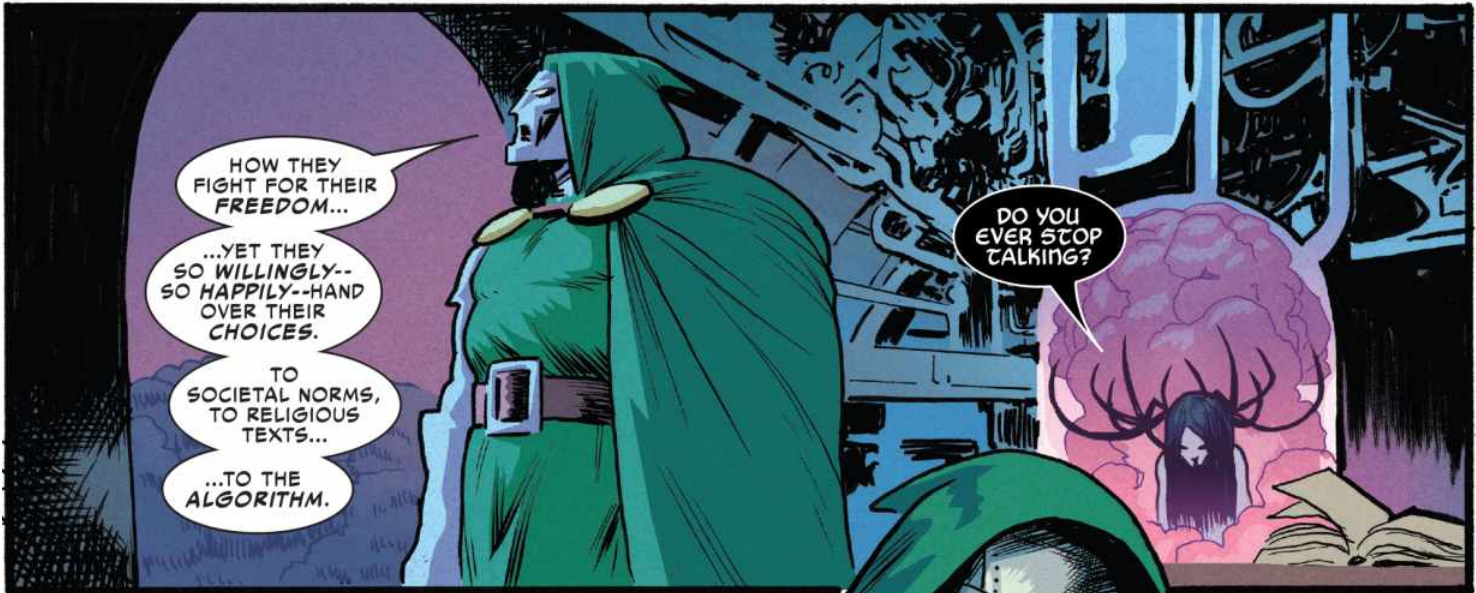


A FOOL WOULD
ARGUE THAT IT IS
INTELLIGENCE THAT
SETS HUMANS APART
FROM BEASTS...

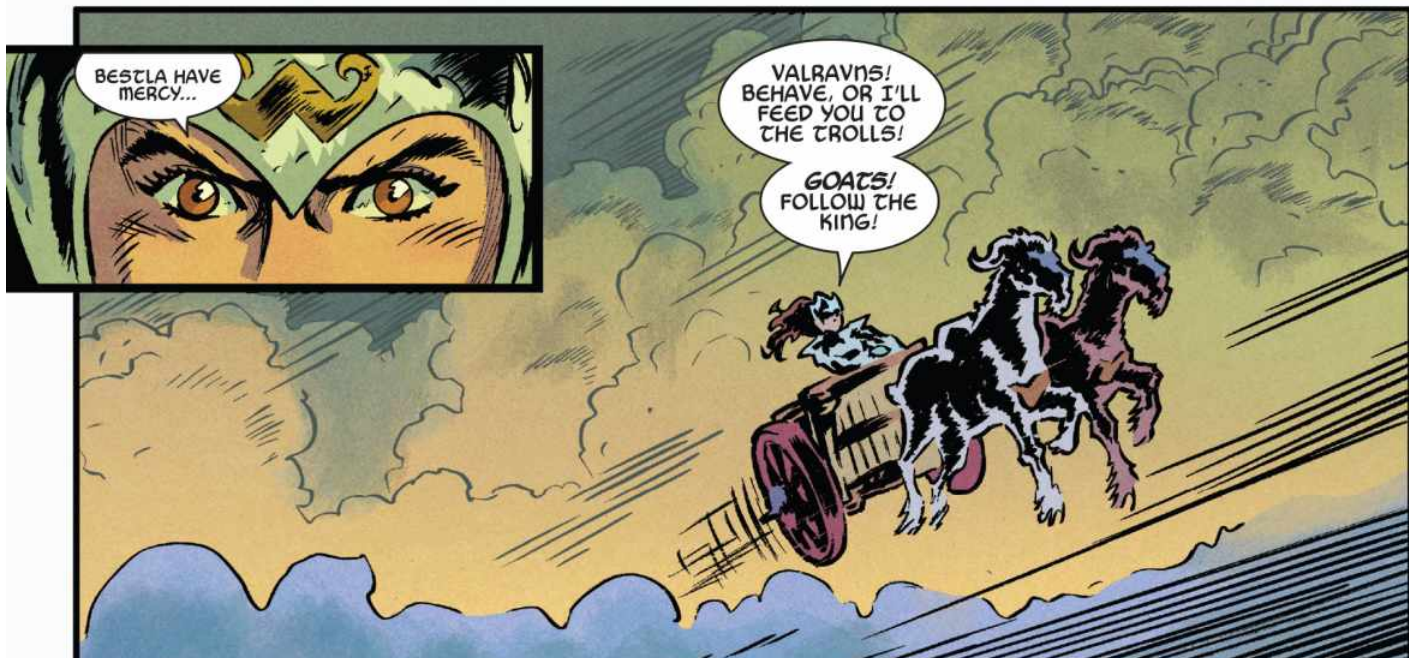
...BUT THAT
IS NOT TRUE,
IS IT?

NO ONE
OBSERVING THE
EARTH FROM THE
OUTSIDE WOULD EVER
MISTAKE THE HUMAN
RACE AS
INTELLIGENT.









Hel is dead.

Hel is silent.

NIDHOGG!

The only sound is the creaking of metal as the dragon turns.

CREEEAAAK

CLUNK

More machine than beast, Nidhogg no longer hungers for flesh.

MY FATHER. RELEASE HIM!

It seeks inside the god, searching for his soul.

Thor feels it.

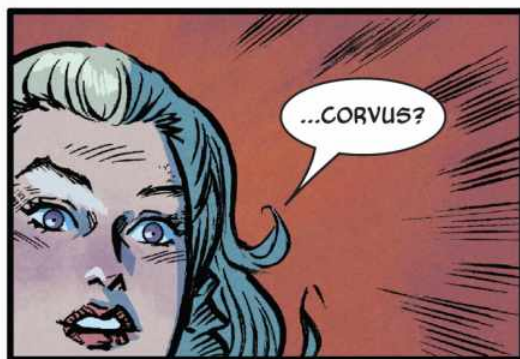
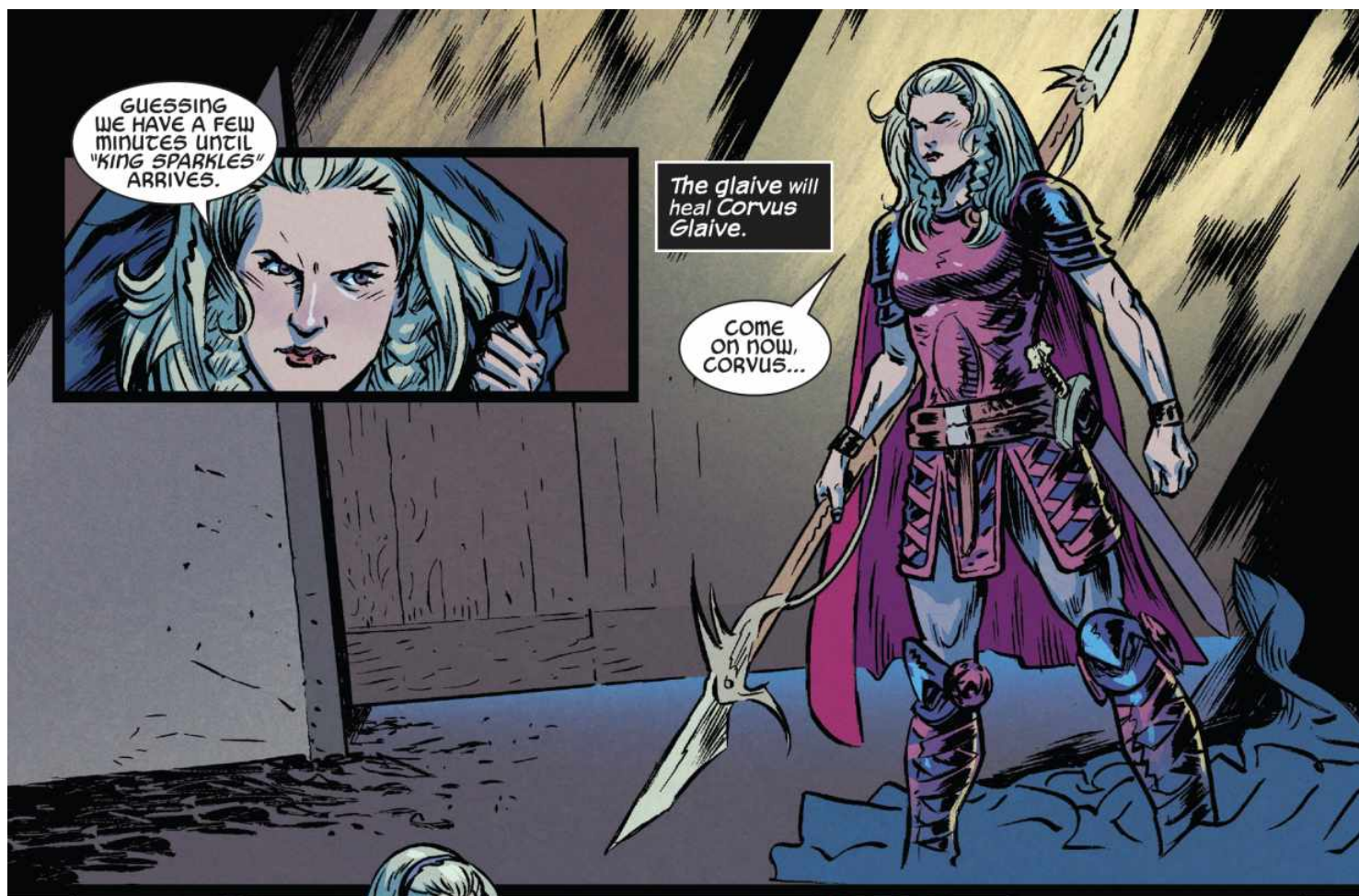
Like cold water drowning him from within.

And it occurs to him--

--he is no longer hunter--

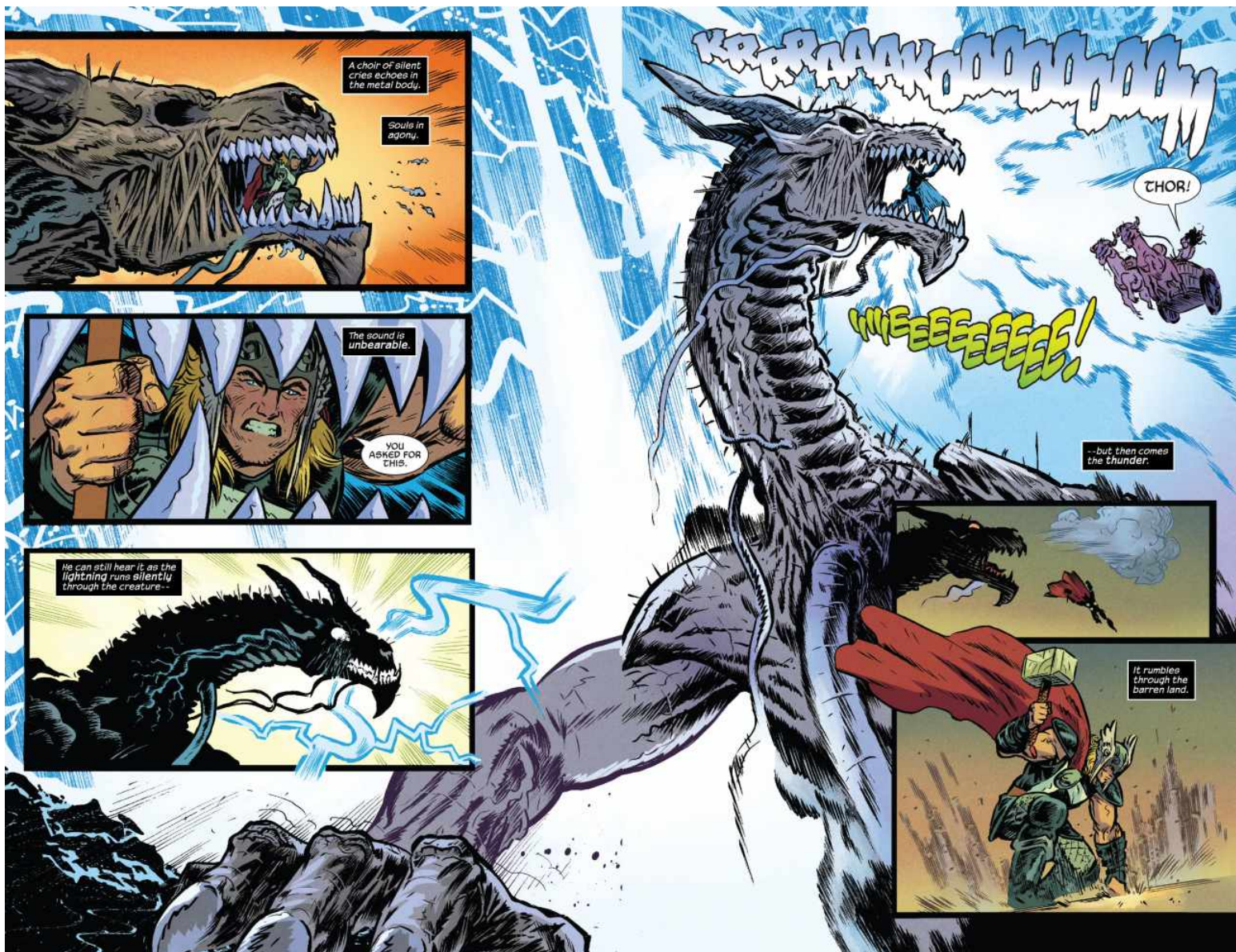
--he is











A choir of silent
cries echoes in
the metal body.

Souls in
agony.

The sound is
unbearable.

YOU
ASKED FOR
THIS.

He can still hear it, as the
lightning runs silently
through the creature--

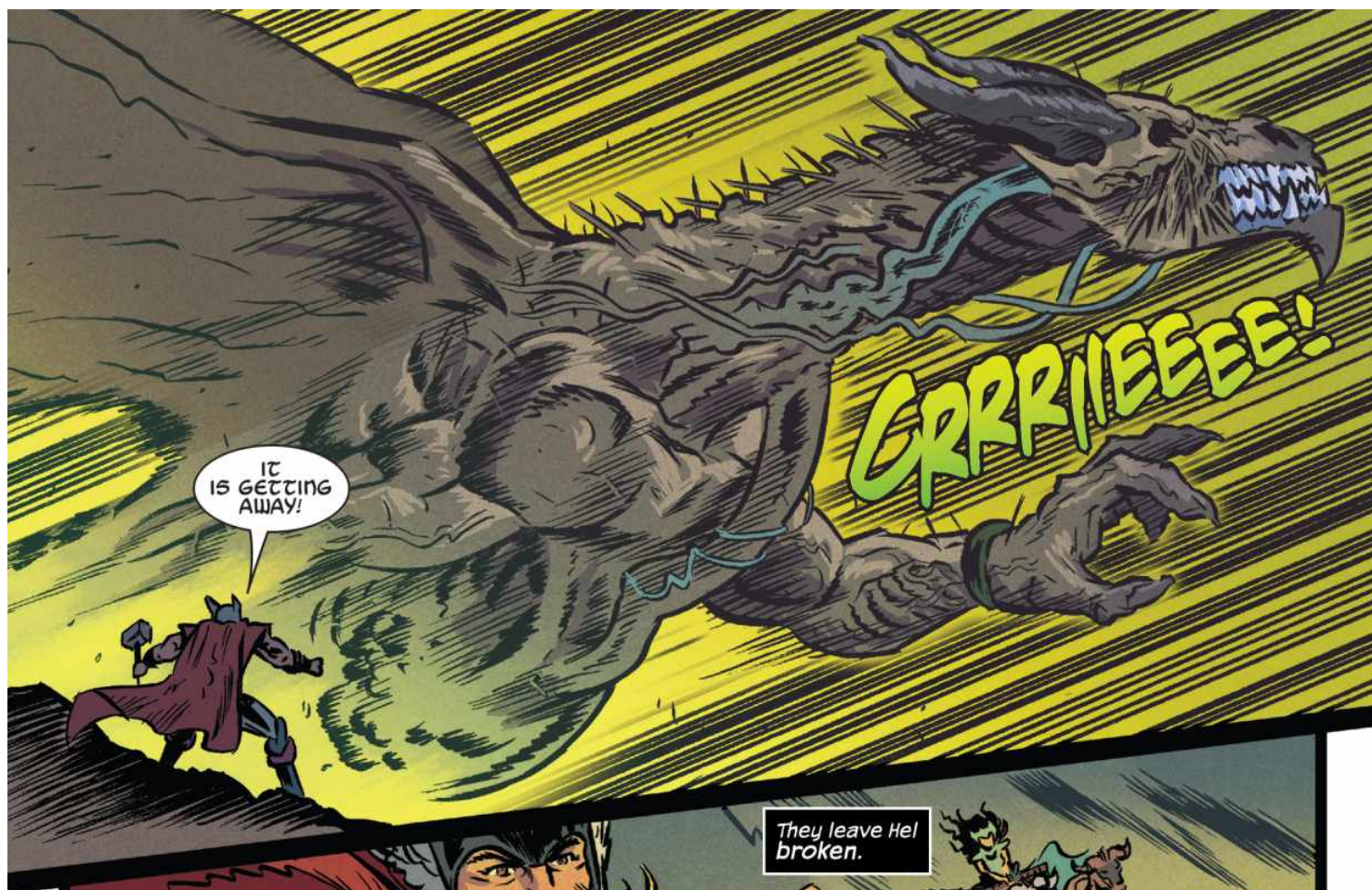
KR RRAAKOOOOOOO!!!

THOR!

WEEEEEEEEEE!

--but then comes
the thunder.

It rumbles
through the
barren land.



IT IS GETTING AWAY!

GRRRIIEEEE!

They leave Hel broken.

AFTER IT!



THE BEAST HAS MY FATHER!

Bankrupt.



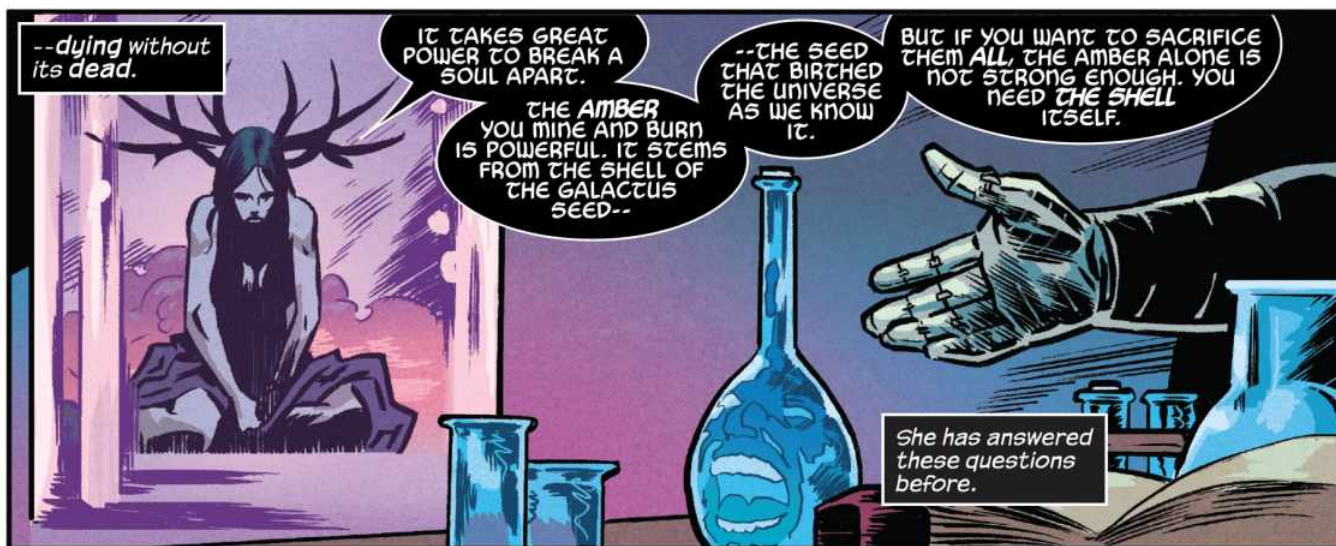
I AM NOT SURE IF HE IS STILL ALIVE...OR, YOU KNOW...

HOW CAN THE DEAD DIE?

I FEAR WE ARE ABOUT TO FIND OUT.

A realm without purpose--





--dying without its dead.

IT TAKES GREAT POWER TO BREAK A SOUL APART.

THE AMBER YOU MINE AND BURN IS POWERFUL. IT STEMS FROM THE SHELL OF THE GALACTUS SEED--

--THE SEED THAT BIRTHED THE UNIVERSE AS WE KNOW IT.

BUT IF YOU WANT TO SACRIFICE THEM ALL, THE AMBER ALONE IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH. YOU NEED THE SHELL ITSELF.

She has answered these questions before.



IT IS A FOOL'S DREAM, VICTOR.

YOU ARE STANDING BETWEEN THE LIVING AND THE DEAD, TOYING WITH MAGIC AND FORCES YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND.

They were asked by another mortal.



"AND THROUGH THE NUMEN OF THE MANY SHALL ONE RULER STAND."



DO YOU THINK THIS RITUAL WILL MAKE YOU THE RULER OF LIFE AND DEATH?

IS THAT WHAT THIS IS? DO YOU WANT TO BE A GOD?

One she loved deeply.



She thinks about him now.

I BELIEVE THE GODS GRANTED HUMANITY FREE WILL FOR ONE REASON ONLY--

--ONE CANNOT WORSHIP WITHOUT WILL.

IT WAS THE MOST SELFISH MISTAKE IN ALL OF HISTORY.

AND I WILL UNMAKE IT.



I DO NOT NEED WORSHIP.

I AM DOOM.

DOOM DOES NOT NEED TO BE A GOD.



no...you just want the power of one.

She wonders if he plays a part in this.



TO SAVE THEM, HELA.

I WILL SACRIFICE THE DEAD TO SAVE THE LIVING.

WHERE BOR FAILED, I WILL SUCCEED.

WHAT-
EVER DO YOU MEAN?



BOR DID NOT FAIL...

THE MOUNTAIN EXPLODED AND THOUSANDS DIED, YES, BUT THE RITUAL...

...THE RITUAL WAS QUITE SUCCESSFUL.

ASGARD.
BACK IN THE FUTURE.

CORVUS
GLAIVE.

THE
CHAIN AROUND
YOUR NECK WAS
FORGED BY THE
DWARVES OF
NIDAVELLIR, AND
IT IS--

--EH--

--UNBREAKABLE!

SO
DON'T TRY
NOTHING!

I WILL TRY
NOTHING.

YOU OWE
ME SOME
ANSWERS.

I OWE YOU
ANSWERS.

EH, ALL
RIGHT...

WHEN I WAS
A KID, YOU TOOK
ME FROM MY HOME
AND DRAINED MY
BLOOD BY FORCE,
ALL TO OPEN
THE VAULT...

FOR WHAT?!
WHAT WERE
YOU AFTER IN
THERE?

THE...

...STONE.



WHAT **STONE?**
THE **BLACK STONE?**
I HAVE SEARCHED THE
ENTIRE VAULT! IT IS
NOT THERE!



CORVUS?!
WHAT'S WRONG
WITH YOU?

HIS
SOUL IS
GONE.



BROTHER!

I WAS
JUST...

HIS SOUL
LEFT HIM WHEN
I KILLED HIM.



I DID NOT
MEAN TO, BUT
THE MAGIC IN THE
AMBER CAVE TWISTED
THE LIGHTNING,
AND...

I'M SO
SORRY, THOR.
I DIDN'T--



I HAVE
TRIED TO KEEP
YOU AWAY FROM
THE FORBIDDEN
ZONE.

IN
VAIN, IT
SEEMS...

IT PAINS ME
TO KNOW WHAT
YOU GO THROUGH
WHEN YOU ENTER
THAT PLACE.

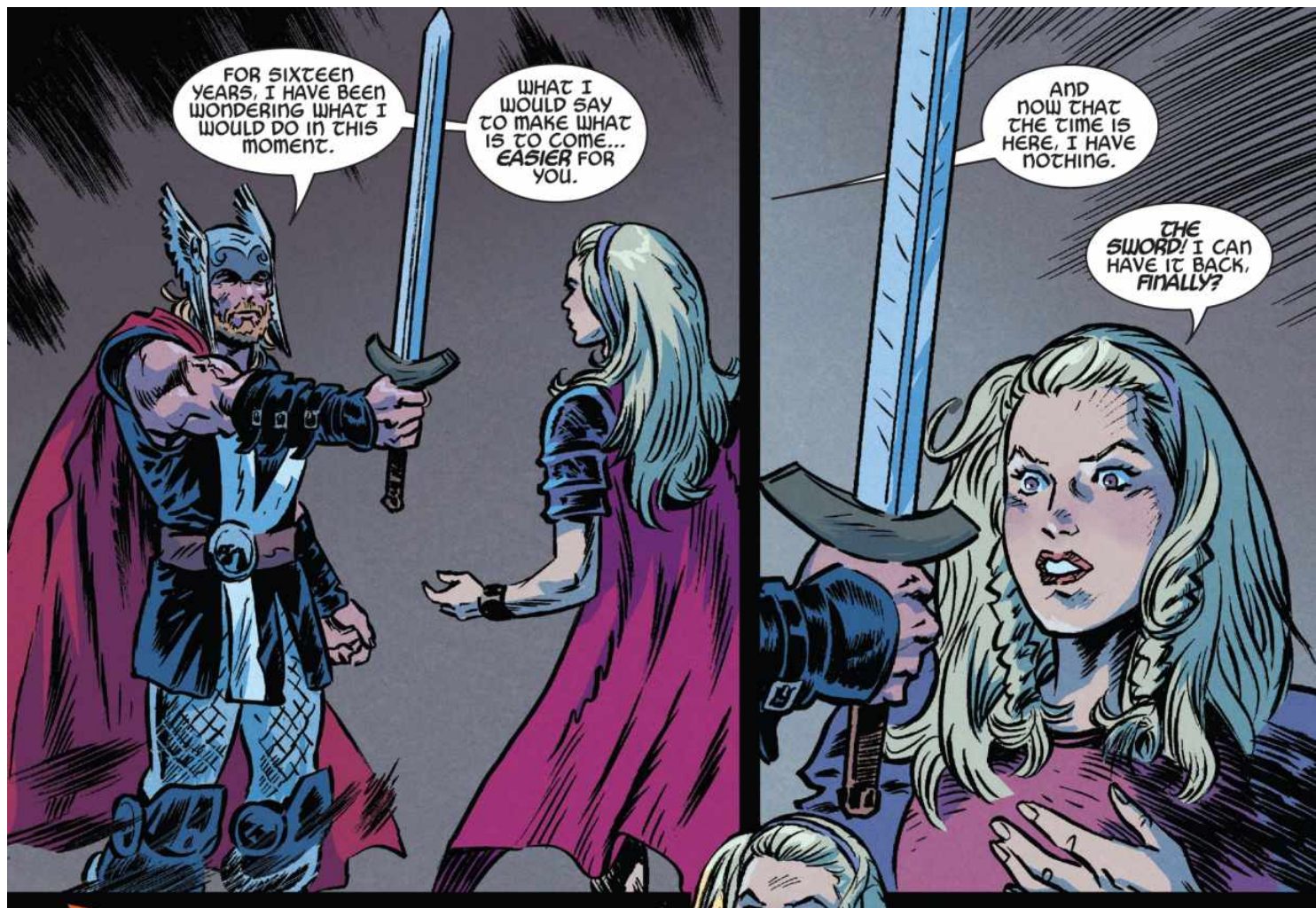
AND IT
FRIGHTENS ME
TO KNOW WHAT
THE MAGICAL
CONTAMINATION
COULD DO TO
YOU.



I AM
ALWAYS CAREFUL,
BROTHER.

THAT
IS NOT THE
POI--

LISTEN.



LACVERIA.
NOW.

WHAT
THE HEL--

BLAM BLAM

--IS THAT
THING?

WELL, IT
LOOKS LIKE WE
ARE GOING TO
WAR.

NOT THE
ARMY! ABOVE
THE CASTLE. CAN
YOU NOT SEE
IT?





He has seen them before.

In the mirrored wall in the amber cave.



He saw what he did to them.

And he prays he did not see the future.

QUOTH THE RAVENS: THE HUGINN & MUNINN SHOW

WRITE TO US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM
AND MARK YOUR MISSIVES "OKAY TO PRINT."



"You know, Muninn, I must confess I find it quite irritating that such a ridiculous pair is allowed to go on the adventures with the All-Father that are rightfully ours. Toothgnasher and Toothgrinder? Goats, really???"

"Don't be jealous, Huginn--remember that with the broken Bifrost, they are necessary to travel between the realms! Unless you intend to carry Thor across space and time with your own wings?"

"Well, I would be more amenable to the idea if we hadn't already been forced to endure those valravns--they really do give all ravens a terrible reputation, don't you think? Where do you think the term 'an unkindness of ravens' came from, Muninn? Unkindness?"

"Unruffle your feathers, Huginn, for we have important work to do that no goats ever could! It is time to answer the Midgardian missives!"

Hail, good birds!

On a recent hike of the Falljökull Glacier in Iceland, our tour guide introduced us to a new guest who had joined us toward the end of our tour. A large, beautiful raven. "There are two of these ravens that visit us during our tour, this is Huginn, the other is--"

"--Muninn!" I interjected.

"You know Huginn and Muninn?"

"Of course! The harbingers and messengers of the All-Father!"

I think our guide and the rest of the party were quite impressed that I knew of you both. You'd think they'd be less surprised I knew of two of the most famous birds in the Ten Realms, but apparently I travel with peasants. Anyway, Huginn, pleasure to meet you, if briefly. Sorry we were not allowed to feed you. "Maintaining the ecosystem" or some such. I hope I captured your good side! ;)

George Hinds

You see, Muninn? This is what I mean--respect where it is due! The missives are addressed to us! I do believe I remember that day, Master George, though frankly, I meet many mortals. Unfortunately, you Midgardians seem to have too many new names and faces to remember to keep track of the older and more esteemed ones. To think the names Huginn and Muninn are not known far and wide...

Huginn always stops by the mortal stomping grounds in hopes of being fed snacks...what a relief the regulars have grown wise to his tricks! But it is an honor to be known by Midgardians at all when we so often stay in Asgard and the other realms.

Pah. Do not pretend you don't go seeking hot dogs and pretzels and nuts and treats from the Midgardians as well, Muninn!

I've been reading THOR for a long time, and I pick up everything that might have even a smidgen of Thanos in it. Big fan of the recent ETERNALS series' new-and-improved Uranos too. Any time Thanos is involved, it just feels like something

huge is about to happen--this feels like that but even creepier, and who better than Thor to meet it head-on? I'm enjoying the mystery element, and the writing by Torunn Grønbekk (sounds like she's from Asgard) is on point. I'm hoping for some Surfer... and maybe even Strange can be alive again in time to get a piece of the action on this? Oh, and a black Infinity Stone? Terrifying!

Robert Eaton

Well, yes, Master Robert, Thanos is quite large. A Titan, even--so of course something huge is about to happen! But as for the creepiness--did you see our visit to his homeland? It was transcribed by Torunn and the masterful hand of Andrea Di Vito in the recent compilation called THANOS: DEATH NOTES #1!

The evil of that Mad Titan still haunts my sleep. Be glad that neither you, Master Robert, nor you, Muninn, had to be the ones to read his notes and his diaries. But that elusive Doctor Strange might have troubles of his own to worry about now that it is revealed he was alive all this--

Hush, Huginn! The Midgardians are not yet to know the truth of the Sorcerer Supreme!

Time flying by you once again, Muninn? Why, the latest woes of Stephen Strange can already be read in DOCTOR STRANGE #1. That, by the way, is how the mortals refer to their stories. You don't want them thinking we're as outdated as the dodo, do you?

Dear Huginn and Muninn,

I've been reading this run of THOR since issue #1, and I had to write in to say how great I thought THOR #29 was. It had everything I want in a Thor story--magic, suspense, action and mystery. And the way Grønbekk tied together the story lines of THOR, the JANE FOSTER AND THE MIGHTY THOR miniseries and the THANOS: DEATH NOTES one-shot was really satisfying. I can't wait to see where we go in this new arc. Keep up the great work, Torunn!

Nick Carnes

Now here is a fellow who has been keeping up with the reading! You would be amazed if you knew how many Asgardian tales there are to tell. Midgardian minds cannot comprehend it--reduced to fluff and feathers faster than staring into the time storm.

Master Torunn is an adept scribe! She understands well the important facets of Asgardian storytelling. And when it comes to the Ten Realms, you can never go too hard on the magic...

Huginn and Muninn,

THOR #30 blew me away! I had to read it twice before I felt like I really got what was going on! Torunn Grønbekk puts some serious detail into this story!

First of all, I continue to love the art team-up of Nic Klein and Matt Wilson. They are a great match! It's just so, so good! The splash page right in the middle of the issue was absolutely epic!

Next, I genuinely enjoy Grønbekk's writing. She gets Thor and the Norse side of Marvel. I loved the use of the draugrs in the issue! That was a nice touch! Also, the history of the Valkyrior is being greatly broadened and so much depth is being added to the Marvel version of Norse mythology.

Keep up the great work!
Bob Stalnaker

Time and mystery always prove to provide some trickery together! And with how much Master Torunn and Masters Nic and Matt pour into every page, it is a wonder you can catch everything in even two readings! Have you tried a third, just to be certain?

Those disgusting draugr...consider it a blessing, Master Bob, that their foul odor was merely described to you and not baked into the pages, as I had suggested. For authenticity, of course.

But now, Muninn, do my eyes deceive me or have we already come to the end of our show?

Huginn, don't tell me you suddenly lament losing the opportunity to answer missives! Here I thought you loathed the task?

Do not try to turn this into something else, Muninn. It is not that I enjoy answering missives, but that it is very important to give respect to the established order, which means our deserved time. And the order dictates that should you want your missives answered, they must be marked "OKAY TO PRINT"!

NEXT:
A CERTAIN DOOM AWAITS
IN THOR #33!



